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Chicopee Register

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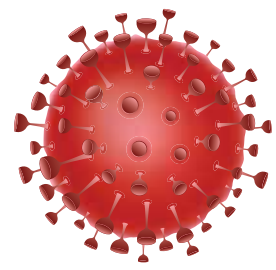
COVID 'skyrockets' across state after Thanksgiving holiday

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – COVID-19 positive case counts are continuing to rise in Chicopee at an unprecedented rate. On Dec. 9, officials reported there were 706 active cases of the novel coronavirus currently in the city.

On Wednesday afternoon, it was also reported that the accumulative number of confirmed cases in Chicopee since March has risen to 1,754, and the death toll has reached 21 residents.

It is expected that both numbers will continue to rise, as temperatures drop below freezing, forcing residents indoors for longer durations.



On Dec. 9, the city reported that 929 residents have recovered from COVID-19. Eighty-four individuals, who have tested positive, fall under the category of "Non-Chicopee Asst. Living Facility," although officials didn't define that term and clarifying information wasn't immediately available.

Speaking at his briefing prior to the City Council meeting last week, Mayor John Vieau expressed optimism in the fight against COVID-19.

"We're hopeful that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, but the numbers are rising in Chicopee" said Vieau on Dec. 1. "I plead with people. I've tried to get the message out and am sure many of you do the same to please follow those simple rules: social distance, wear a mask. It's an order."

The rise in COVID-19 cases in Chicopee has been drastic and well-documented. On Nov. 9, the city reported 254 active cases. Over the month that followed, the active case count rose by nearly 300%.

On Dec. 7, the state reported 4,747 new cases, 48 new deaths and 1,164 cases in hospitals; as of Monday, 293 Commonwealth residents were in an Intensive Care Unit battling the virus.

The state also reported on Dec. 7 that the seven-day average positivity rate has reached a record high at 5.34%.

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Youth Academy offers an inside look at policing

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The Chicopee Police Department Youth Academy poses for a socially-distanced picture on Monday night.

CHICOPEE – Chicopee youths are learning that there's more to a police officer than just a badge, thanks to a police-led program that also teaches self-defense.

The Chicopee Police Department and the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee have renewed their partnership, offering local teenagers an opportunity to meet the men and women who protect the city each day.

The Chicopee Police Department Youth Academy, a two-month interactive program, convenes on Monday and Wednesday evenings inside of the club, which is located on Meadow Street.

"We have them up and moving around, doing the things that they would learn in the police academy," said Lieutenant Holly Davis. "Seeing these kids grow is the best part for me. Having the kids grow up around the officers breaks down walls and also gives us an opportunity to see the good in people."

Over the past seven weeks, cadets have learned to take fingerprints, analyze blood, administer CPR, stop bleeding, investigate crime scenes, apply handcuffs and practice defense tactics.

They've also interacted with the police department's dive and rescue team in addition to witnessing the use of tasers and meeting the department's K9s.

Faith Baez, a 15-year-old cadet, is participating in the program for the second consecutive year. Baez was unenthusiastic when her mother first signed her up, but the Academy has paid dividends, educating Baez on numerous techniques while also expanding her per-

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Teachers say 'lack of clarity among colleagues' problematic at times

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – The challenges facing Chicopee teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic are seemingly endless, and in-house communication has made its way to the top of the list. Educators in the school district are working vigorously to facilitate a sense of togetherness that has been difficult to attain this semester.

"Bell-to-Bell," a four-part ChicopeeTV miniseries that has covered numerous aspects of the school district, concluded last week. The final episode honed in on the subject of communication and was narrated by Chicopee Superintendent Lynn Clark.

"Tonight, we will turn to a more touchy topic; how the employees of our district are getting along. It is, after all, a time of crisis," said Clark. "Education is a cyclical job. Sure, there are changes from year to year, but for the most part, one can find his or her or their lane and stay in it. COVID-19 has turned that all upside down."

Clark acknowledged that the pandemic has required the district to demand more from its teachers than ever before. She noted that remote education has proven itself as being a tricky obstacle to hurdle.

"In all of this change, with all of this exhaustion, there's bound to be problems," said Clark. "The teachers are trying to figure out just how do they engage 25 kids, whose faces they can't see, who can't borrow a pencil from a peer, and are fighting technology."

As part of the ChicopeeTV program, nearly a dozen Chicopee teachers shared their perspectives. Among them was Bellamy Middle School teacher and Chicopee Education Association President, Laura Demakis.

"This is, across the board, more than anyone could have ever thought of. People are working longer hours; they're working harder," said Demakis, who added that a lack of clarity among colleagues has, at times, been problematic.

"In this district, there's a lot of sentiment of inequity right now. [There is] a lot of sentiment of anger and resentment with, 'Oh, this person has it easier than this person.' I think all that happened because the agreements and terms were done so late and rolled out so late," said Demakis, referring school mandates and teacher assignments that were given just weeks prior to the beginning of the academic year.

Dan Falvey, a special education teacher and Chicopee Comprehensive High School girls' lacrosse coach, analyzed the tension that has been existent and shed light on its pos-

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COMMUNITY

Fall athletics a success

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COMMUNITY

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Fall athletics a 'major success' with zero transmissions

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – It's been several weeks since the autumn slate of Chicopee high sports wrapped up, and winter athletics are on an indefinite hold until students return from remote learning.

While Chicopee student athletes are unable to play competitively, safety prevailed during the city's first high school athletic season since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, said Coordinator of Athletics Sean Mackin on Dec 2.

Mackin, who oversees athletic activities at both Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School, spoke to the School Committee last Tuesday.

"I would look at the fall as a major success for us. We had zero transmissions. I feel like our coaches and over 350 student athletes did an exceptional job with mask-wearing and social distancing," said Mackin, who has held his position for over a decade.

"Social distancing and mask-wearing are paramount to anything that we do. When we meet with all of our coaches – and we've met with all of our coaches – the emphasis was being a COVID coach first, and a sport-specific coach secondly," Mackin continued.

Ward 9 representative, Mary Beth Costello, requested that a discussion item pertaining to athletics be included on the agenda. Costello noted that "Gov. Ned Lamont of Connecticut recently indicated that a high transmission of the virus happens during school sports."

Costello anticipates the return of Chicopee High School athletics only when the time is right. For the sake of the students, Costello is hopeful that the district can resume participating in competitive sports sooner rather than later.

"Sports are very important for the social and emotional development of our student athletes. If we can do sports successfully, that will help the students cope with this pandemic during this crisis," Costello said.

Throughout the fall sports season, every coach in the district was required to take on added responsibilities to comply with safety guidelines. Beyond physical distancing and mask-wearing, athletic instructors monitored handwashing, proper spacing, keeping benches clear during practice and several other sports modifications, Mackin said.

Mackin noted that on numerous occasions, masks dropped below the faces of student athletes, as they competed on the field "in the heat of the moment."

In each instance, the student athlete quickly readjusted his or her mask, fully mindful of the protocols in place. Mackin discussed an incident that was far more significant.

"We had some early bumps in the road non-related to our teams," said Mackin. "We had a situation where a student athlete had played another sport and we found out that a coach in that sport was positive, and we had to quarantine a team for two weeks. We had to shut down a couple of practices early just to allow contact tracing to do its part."

Athletic staff members and trainers contributed to contact tracing by calling parents and making them aware of the situation. During the fall, the district's athletic staff was in close contact with School Nurse Amena Assaf and the city's Health Director, Lisa Sanders.

"Early on, the nursing staffs in both schools would say that we kind of drove them crazy, because we were double-checking and triple-checking and making sure that we're doing everything we're supposed to be doing to make sure our student athletes, coaches and all stakeholders are as safe as possible," said Mackin.

Mayor John Vieau, who's also the School Committee Chair, applauded Mackin and his staff for achieving zero transmissions during the fall athletic season. Costello complimented their effort as well, noting that not even professional teams are immune to COVID-19 gaffes.

"I'm glad our coaches are taking the virus seriously and implementing the proper policies Look at the NFL football teams: they're getting fined because they're not following proper protocol," said Costello.

Virtual Tang Soo Do Korean Martial Arts

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering virtual lessons in Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial art.

Come learn with Instructor Master Jeffrey Bulissa, a fourth-degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, and learn about self-defense, confidence and physical fitness.

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings virtually in the comfort of your own home. The classes will run from Dec. 2 – 28.

Classes are being offered for Little Dragons (ages five to six) from 5 – 5:30 p.m.; Gups (beginners white, orange, green belts, ages seven and up) from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m; and Gups (advanced brown belts and above, ages seven and up) from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Classes require enough space to perform various movements.

Cost is $40 for Little Dragons and $50 for beginner and advanced Gups. All participants will be emailed a link to get into the classes. To register, go to www.chicopeerec.com.

Yoga classes offered through Parks & Rec

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering two yoga classes.

Classes are being offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. from Dec. 8 – 22, and on Saturday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m., from December 5 – 19.

The classes are designed to help provide rest and calm that includes breathing, gentle flowing movements and basic balancing postures that work for all skill levels. Masks must be worn at all times throughout the class. Please bring your own yoga mat and any props you wish to use, as they cannot be provided under current COVID-19 regulations.

All classes are held at the Chicopee Parks Dept., 687 Front St. The cost for either session is $40 for residents and $50 for non-residents. Class space is limited. Register at www.chicopeerec.com.

Spring STCC class explores income tax preparation

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College this spring will offer a new class that teaches students to prepare federal income taxes.

The training will help students develop a skill to prepare taxes for themselves, family and friends. In addition, they could become excellent candidates for tax preparation jobs, said Anthony Rondinelli, a professor of business administration who is teaching the three-credit class called BUS-151 Federal Income Tax Preparation.

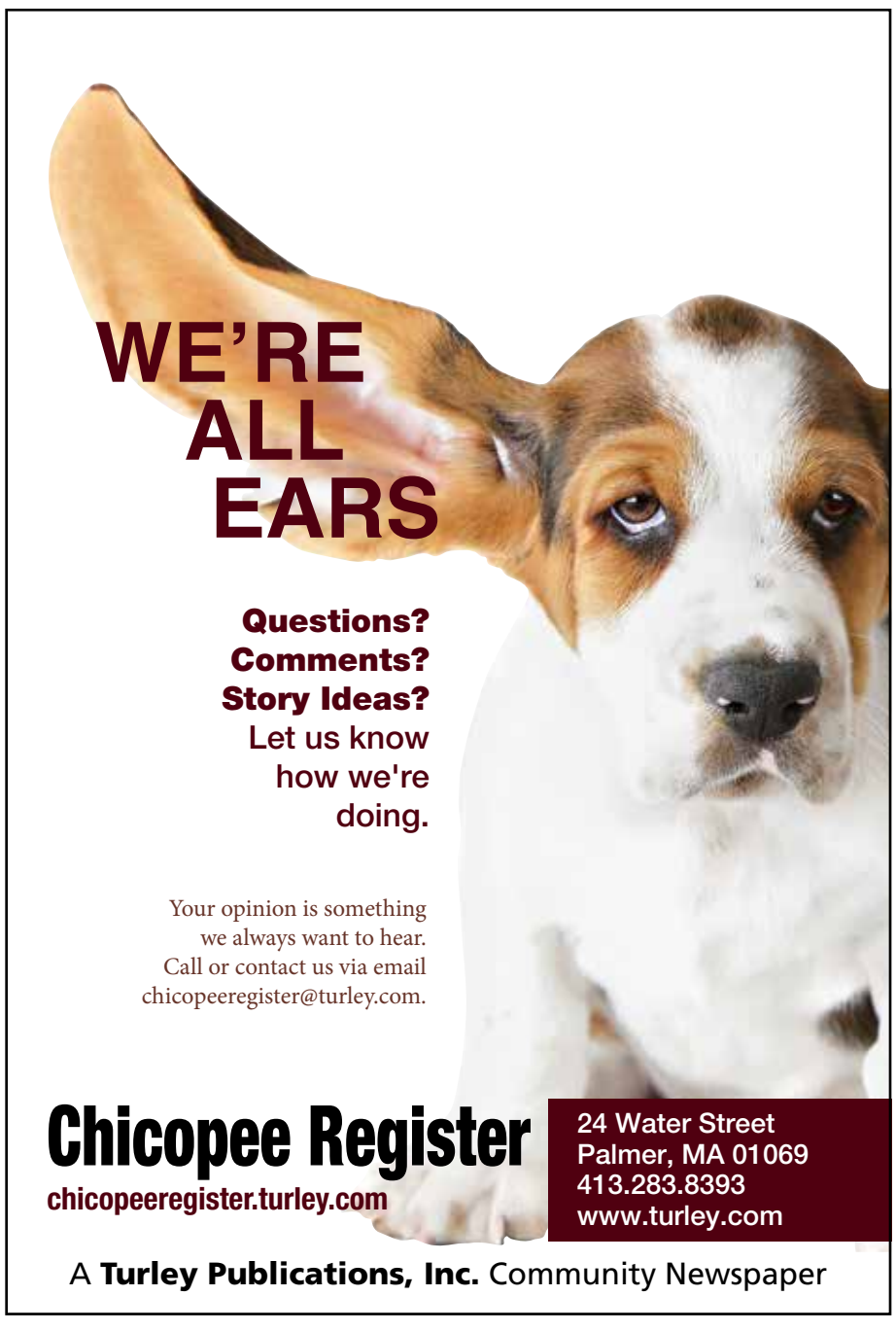
"A student who successfully completes this class will have a skill that is in very high demand," Rondinelli said.

STCC students have been hired or were given internships at firms such as Liberty Tax Service in Springfield.

"The preparation they get in Professor Rondinelli's class means his tax students can get a pass on Liberty's class and go right to certification testing," said Steve Kowalski, of Liberty Tax Service. "Professor Rondinelli does a thorough job of teaching tax theory. Once a student understands theory, real life application is easy."

Rondinelli describes the online class as a comprehensive, detailed online course that will show students how to complete federal income tax returns from start to finish.

The class covers the following topics and more: A thorough review of the US tax system and tax laws; Gross income and exclusions; Business Income and expenses; Tax deductions and tax credits; Preparation of federal forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ; Preparation of schedules A, B, C, D, E & F; Tax administration and tax planning



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"The health care workers at Baystate Medical Center are showing fatigue and stress, and some communities are considering lockdowns. We continue working on drive-through testing for all city residents," said Mayor John Vieau in Dec. 7 press release.

Thanksgiving gatherings are receiving the brunt of the blame for rapidly ascending case counts that are being observed throughout Massachusetts. On Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced that the state's positive case count "took off like a rocket" following the holiday weekend.

That same day, Baker announced that hospitals in the Commonwealth will temporarily curtail in-patient elective surgeries beginning on Dec. 11 – a policy that had previously been implemented this past spring.

On a more positive note, the state is anticipating that several hundred thousand COVID-19 vaccines will arrive in the Massachusetts by year's end. Healthcare workers treating patients stricken with COVID-19 or long-term care facility residents will be first to receive inoculations.

Vaccines will then be administered to other healthcare workers, first responders and individuals at high risk for the virus, according to the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group.

It is unlikely that the majority of residents will receive inoculations prior to the spring.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that the government has partnered with large chain pharmacies and networks representing pharmacies to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

The list includes, but is not limited to, Costco Wholesale Corp., CVS Pharmacy, Inc., Publix Super Markets Inc., Rite Aid Corp., Topco Associates, LLC, Walgreens, Walmart, Inc., and Winn-Dixie Stores Inc.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Officer Keith Hevey of the Chicopee Police Department teaches a teenager self-defense at the Boys & Girls Club on Monday evening.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI.

Lieutenant Holly Davis of the Chicopee Police Department leads a self-defense session at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club on Dec. 9.

SUBMITTED FROM THE CHICOPEE POLICE DEPT.

Lieutenant Holly Davis and Officer Keith Hevey of the Chicopee Police Department help lead a session of the Chicopee Police Department Youth Academy on Dec. 9.

Lieutenant Holly Davis of the Chicopee Police Dept. teaches self-defense to a Chicopee Police Department Youth Academy cadet on Dec. 9.

ACADEMY from page 1

spective.

"[Policing] is so much more than what people say on the streets; it's so much different than how they describe it," said Baez. "You learn why they do what they do. They don't want to use force. You just have to cooperate, and not a lot of people understand that."

Baez expressed her gratitude to the police officers that engage with them in the program, noting that they are volunteering their time. The Academy has enabled Baez to realize that the stereotypes she reads online aren't always true, she said.

"You can't judge a book by its cover. Their uniforms are their cover, and on the inside is so much more. You get to learn so much about these officers – backstories that you wouldn't know just by looking at them," said Baez.

Cadet Angelina Morales, 13, shared a similar outlook. During her time spent at the Boys & Girls Club, Morales has not only had fun; she said her mind has also been put more at ease.

"I used to look at some officers and be nervous because I would feel like they're going to do something bad or, if you look a certain way, they're going to attack you," said Morales. "Entering this program, I realized that not everybody is the same. These officers are very welcoming. It's like a family here. You do so many fun activities, and it helps you feel safe."

While a variety of police department personnel have contributed to the Academy, Officer Mark Hammond has been a mainstay. He's been impressed by the cadets' ability to retain knowledge over the course of the program.

"The connections that we make with the kids are totally invaluable. It kind of breaks down barriers from what they've learned on the outside," said Hammond. "They see us as regular people and can learn from us. As much as they learn from us, we learn from them as well."

As COVID-19 case counts rise, rigorous safety protocols and constant sanitization have allowed the Academy to operate safely during the pandemic. Custodians are on-hand during each session and also clean the bathroom after every use.

Boys & Girls Club Executive Director, Jason Reed, noted that Academy, originally scheduled for the summer, had to be postponed. He was thrilled to see it continue during the fall and early winter.

"Social interaction is a major concern for us because kids, for their development, need to be able to engage with their peers and engage with positive role models," said Reed. "With us being able to provide this kind of program, we're really giving these teens a way to be able to interact with each other from somewhere other than behind a computer screen for at least a small portion of their day."

Prior to the pandemic, the police department coordinated over 40 community events on an annual basis, ranging from Safety Day at Home Depot to Fun Days at the elementary schools. Davis has relished the opportunity to interact with the cadets face-to-face, twice each week.

"To have a little piece of that with this program gives us an opportunity to reach out to the kids and have some social time with them," said Davis. "Sometimes, when you're arresting people all day long, you don't get to see that good, and these kids are amazing."

The Academy is set to conclude next week, as cadets graduate, but the department is optimistic that is partnership with the Boys & Girls Club will continue to strive well into the future.

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Coriander, fit for cookie-making

IN THE GARDEN

Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

My family and I have been enjoying Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village for as long as the program has been running. Wanting to visit the Village after a long work day is through is a real testament to how wonderful this evening event is. It was there that we first sampled a coriander cookie made by a recipe from the early 19th century. We thought it was so yummy, in fact, that it became a welcome addition to our Christmas cookie repertoire. With a double batch under my belt just this afternoon, there is no time like the present to learn about this really neat, multi-purpose plant.

Most gardeners already know that coriander (Coriandrum sativum) is one of the few herbs that goes by two different names depending on the part of the plant used. Its foliage, known as cilantro, is used fresh in a number of culinary delights. When the plant goes to seed, known as coriander, it can be used in that stage as well, eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do so. Even in a restaurant. I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki, of the Monell Chemical Senses Center, in Philadelphia. To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like? Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste…or the smell of it.

It's funny that when my oldest daughter received her Ancestry DNA results, she was shown not to possess the genetic aversion. Well, she didn't get that from me….

Cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach. Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively- about one-third of the plant at a time. Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named 'Slow Bolt' and 'Longstanding.' Cilantro's flowers are edible and they attract lots of beneficial insects such as lady beetles, parasitic wasps and syrphid flies.

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pinpoint too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind. Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits, herbal liqueurs and Christmas cookies as I have come to find out and favor!

The Herb Society noted that during World War II coriander seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out. Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest. Let a few drop their seeds and you will be blessed with a few self sown plants next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

GUEST COLUMN

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I Claim Social Security at 62?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm looking for information about retiring and starting my Social Security very soon at age 62. I'm not sure if I want to do it because I'm not sure if I can. Can you help me figure this out? Signed: Hesitant

Dear Hesitant: I know it can be daunting trying to figure out whether and when to claim your Social Security benefits. I'll give you some of the basics:

First, you should know that if you claim your benefits at age 62, your benefit amount will be considerably reduced from what it would be if you waited longer to claim. At 62, your benefit will be about 28% less than it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) which, for you is 66 years and 8 months. Your benefit will continue to grow by a fraction of a percentage point each month you wait, until it reaches 100% at your FRA. You can choose to delay even longer than your FRA, and your benefit will continue to grow up to age 70 when you reach your maximum benefit amount. For you, that maximum at age 70 would be about 28% more than you would get at your FRA and about 75% more than you would get at age 62. There is a considerable financial advantage to waiting to claim.

If you continue working, and you claim at age 62 (or at any age before your FRA), you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits. Starting at age 62 and continuing until the year you attain FRA, there will be an annual limit to your earnings (the 2021 limit is $18,960) and, if you exceed that, Social Security will take back benefits equal to $1 for every $2 you are over the limit. That could mean you will go some number of months without receiving benefits until Social Security recovers what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit. Of course, if you fully retire from work now that is not a concern, but it may influence a future decision to return to work. Social Security's earnings limit no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Your marital status also comes into play. If you are married, and your benefit as a spouse will be more than your personal benefit will be, then there are some special considerations which might affect your claiming decision. Generally, if your spousal benefit will be more than your own benefit (from your lifetime work record), and your husband isn't yet collecting benefits, it's often wise to claim your own earlier and take the larger spouse benefit later. Of course, if you're not married you need only be concerned about your personal benefit from your own lifetime earnings record and waiting for a larger lifelong benefit, if possible, is often the most prudent choice.

Those are the basic things you should consider when trying to decide when to claim your benefits. But your need for the money now, plus your health and life expectancy are also key to your decision. If you need the money earlier to make ends meet, and you won't be severely affected by the earnings limit, then claiming early can be your most prudent choice. Or, if you are not enjoying good health and have reason to believe that you won't live at least until today's average age for a woman (about 87), then that also suggests claiming early. But, if you are working and don't really need the money, and you are in good health and expect to live to a ripe old age, then waiting longer to claim a higher benefit is usually a better strategy.

The reality is that everyone's personal situation is different and there is no single answer to the question of when to claim Social Security. I hope the above gives you at least a starting point for your decision.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, or email chicopeeregister@turley.com
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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"Moms WWII Letters" Zoom presentation

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the Zoom program "Moms WWII Letters" on Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

In May 2017, Corinne Smith found her mother's stash of more than 80 letters from 16 servicemen she had corresponded with in 1944 – 1945. Corinne began to trace the soldiers' family trees with one goal in mind: to return the letters in person to their children.

This presentation links history and genealogy to present-day research and diligence. And it may prompt others to wonder for themselves what treasures lurk in their own old family boxes, and how they can share the information with others.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This Zoom link will be provided on RiverMills Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center to register and receive the Zoom link.

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sible roots.

"I think a lot of people's jobs are different, and I think that a lot of people are probably experiencing a lot of frustration with that," said Falvey. "Trying to separate out frustrations that are just here, and frustrations that are specific to us and our interactions, I think, is a little difficult."

Many Chicopee teachers spent most of the fall teaching students in the classroom while others taught virtually. Ashely Ziemba, a Special Education teacher at Chicopee High School, believes that differences in location have contributed to misunderstandings.

"I feel that we do have a little bit of a divide between the teachers that are in the building and those teaching remotely. I think it's hard because one can't experience what the other one is feeling. It's stressful, but I think that's every school right now," said Ziemba.

Chicopee Comp English teacher, Paula Goudreault, participated in a 30-minute segment of the program, as she answered questions from Clark alongside Bowie Elementary School Academic Support instructor, Kim Lepage. Goudreault elaborated on the importance of effective communication.

"I have to preface this by saying that we are imperfect people in an imperfect world, especially today. I feel like communication has always been a top priority, at least here at Comp," Goudreault said. "I think administration is realizing some areas that teachers and staff do need to get a heads up on that, maybe, prior to this, we wouldn't have thought of. Now, because of the situation we're in, we realize that needs to be disseminated."

Goudreault continued, mentioning that Chicopee students would also like more clarity. Emails delivered to parents do not always get the word across to students, she said.

"The only concern that I've ever heard is actually from my seniors. Some of the older students feel like they wish they had more communication from us," said Goudreault. "They find out through Facebook or Twitter about something we're going to do or something that's happening. They would love it to be sort of inclusive with finding out beforehand."

While Lepage teaches a different age demographic, she agreed that emails don't always find their way to parents, which led to several instances of miscommunication this fall. Despite the inconvenience, Lepage was proud to announce a recent initiative that temporarily bridged a critical gap.

"Recently, we had a virtual assembly, which was neat to see because we had all 360 kids participating. It was a group shot, and they each had their little Zoom cameras. That was great; to all be together and see everybody all at once," said Lepage.

Goudreault has taught remotely since the semester began. She noted that it's difficult to maintain a feeling of being "in touch with my teacher colleagues and, in some ways, administration, because I don't see anybody anymore."

Last week, Goudreault met one of current her students in person for the first time at a local craft fair. During a school year that has been unlike any other, she's aimed to preserve the aura of inclusion that makes teaching a worthwhile profession.

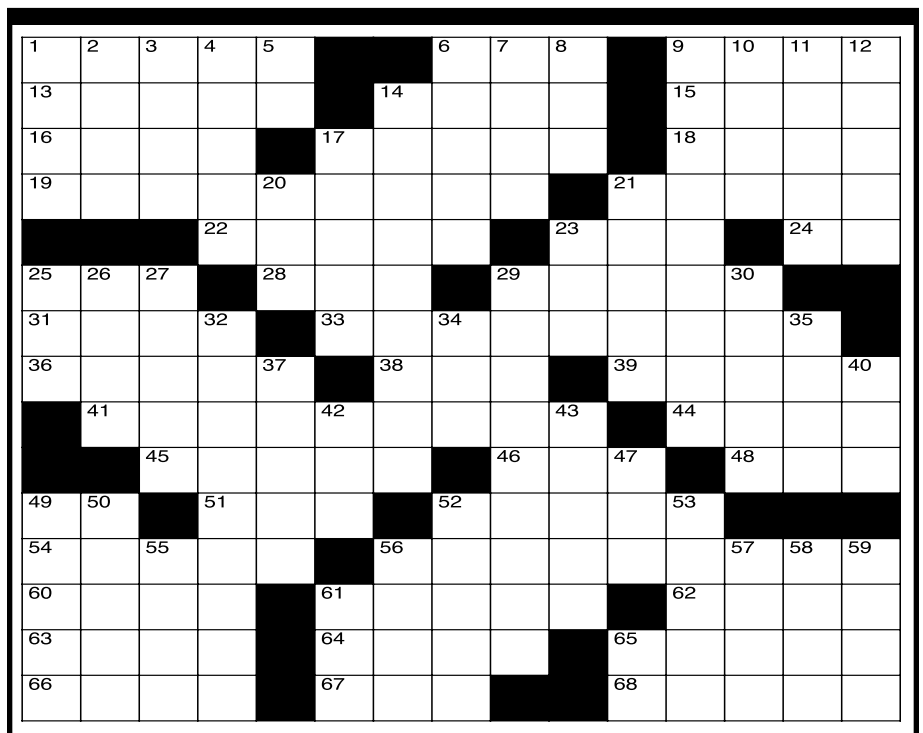
"Every day, when I start teaching, I try to find a way to engage with even one student on a more personal, emotional level to try to bring back some of the things I used to have in the classroom, whether that's asking about a ski trip they went on or a trip to wherever," said Goudreault.

"All of us can teach curriculum. To me, that's not the art of teaching," she continued. "The art of teaching is engaging in students in a way that they respond. That's how I get through every day; trying to find new ways to get the students to respond."

All of the teachers who spoke during the program praised the efforts of the school district's custodians, who have, by all accounts, stepped up tremendously when needed most.

"We are so grateful for the custodians at Chicopee High School. They are working around the clock, cleaning the building, constantly throughout the day. You see them coming to the doors, wiping everything down over and over again," said Ziemba.

The Bell-to-Bell series can be viewed in its entirety on ChicopeeTV's website, Facebook page and Vimeo page.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Skateboarders love them
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
9. Former Ohio State great Michael
13. Not dirty
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
15. A Spanish river
16. Pig meat (French)
17. Famed astronomer
18. Floating ice
19. Broadcast
21. Aquatic mammals
22. Some are bath
23. Hip hop trio
24. NY Giants' #56
25. Small European viper
28. Neither
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
31. Loud noise
33. Second year high schooler
36. "__ in comparison"
38. Golf score
39. Raise
41. Pastas
44. Easily manageable
45. Fathered
46. Pouch
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. News organization
51. Unruly group of people
52. Fasten or secure
54. Sheets of glass
56. Doubled
60. Foolish person
61. Rooney and Kate are two
62. Small, rich sponge cake
63. Advice or counsel
64. Large wading bird
65. Famed British physicist
66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
67. Field force unit
68. Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN
1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
2. Soap ingredient
3. Blackbird
4. Single steps
5. Tin
6. Books have lots of them
7. Made of fermented honey and water
8. You can get it in a bed
9. Room for communal meals
10. Early Syrian kingdom
11. Provokes dry amusement
12. Use with "thou"
14. Mollusk
17. Grain storage units
20. Not a car, not a truck
21. Ooze
23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
25. Tennis pros group
26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
27. E. Indian trees
29. Beloved December holiday
30. Regions
32. Metric unit of length
34. Peter's last name
35. Beige
37. 18-year period in astronomy
40. Where golfers begin
42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
43. Frocks
47. Soda comes in it
49. On approval
50. Trims by cutting
52. Small finch
53. Language Bura-__
55. Nothing
56. Imbecile (British)
57. Tropical Asian plant
58. Abba __, Israeli politician
59. Small freshwater fish
61. Indicates position
65. Data processing

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Chicopee plans to join ValleyBike Share in 2021

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The ValleyBike Share program will soon be implemented in Chicopee. Pictures is a docking station outside the South Hadley Police Department.

The ValleyBike Share program could arrive in Chicopee as early as next spring and will offer residents a new, affordable means of transportation.

Chicopee is no longer a missing link in the ValleyBike Share program, which now extends from Springfield to Holyoke, South Hadley and Chicopee.

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By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – When Chicopee joins the ValleyBike Bicycle Program this spring, the city will strengthen its connection to several neighboring communities. ValleyBike Share already exists in Springfield, Holyoke and South Hadley, and Chicopee is prepared to connect the dots.

"It really made sense for us to join ValleyBike Share because Chicopee was a massive gap in the service situation," said Nathan Moreau, Chicopee's associate planner. "Filling that hole will allow residents from all these communities to go from community to community without having to worry about parking in Chicopee somewhere."

Launched in 2018, ValleyBike Share is a self-serve bicycle rental service that operates throughout western Massachusetts. In 2019, the program's electric-assist bikes were ridden approximately 196,000 miles.

Residents can rent a bicycle via a cellphone app; rates run from $2 for 30 minutes to $90 a year for unlimited rides, up to an hour in duration.

In Chicopee, docking stations will be located across from City Hall, at Rivers Park and in the island at the intersection of Church Street and Broadway, where the MacArthur Ball sits.

"When we were considering locations, we wanted to pick ones that really match the denser neighborhoods, and where people will get the most out of it and where they can go," said Moreau.

"For example, in the Falls, there are some bigger apartment buildings, and [the program] gives residents access to go in a lot of directions. You can head towards Memorial Drive, go toward downtown, or toward Springfield. It's a good walking point, and that's the same thing with Chicopee Center."

The City Hall station will lie in close proximity to a short bike path that travels along the Chicopee River, connecting properties ranging from Szot Park to the RiverMills Center. In the spring of 2022, a bike path that will run along the Connecticut River is expected to open near Rivers Park.

Chicopee residents could prosper from the program's addition, but the city itself will not profit monetarily. The city is utilizing federal grant money to cover installation costs.

"For the most part, the majority of the equipment and all that was paid for via a grant from the federal government so there isn't much of a startup cost on our end," said Moreau.

Moreau, who lives near Rivers Park, anticipates riding a bike into work on spring and fall days when the weather is favorable. Just as ValleyBike Share will aid residents like him, Moreau believes that the program will prove beneficial to local businesses, especially those located in Chicopee Center.

"I think it's going to open up a lot of people's eyes as to just how much small businesses can benefit from a program like this, where you can ride right into downtown from the Falls or Willimansett, park your bike in front of City Hall, go get a cup of coffee, walk around Chicopee Center and go to some of the miscellaneous shops. I think that being such a mobile city, offering new ways to get around that aren't as dependent on the car anymore really speaks volumes to the progress that we're making," said Moreau.

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HIGH SCHOOL

Jump balls eliminated, close contacted limited in basketball modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Modifications for boys and girls basketball have been released and the game will look a little different, though significant limits to fan attendance will restrict how many can see the different-looking game.

In Western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference has decided the first practices will not take place until Jan. 4. Several other areas of the states are following suit. With no playoffs scheduled for the winter season, the various regions have the flexibility to decide when schools will begin and end play.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has set a Dec. 14 date as the soonest teams can start practicing. Several Central Massachusetts schools will start practicing then with contests likely to begin right after the new year.

One rule that will be consistent throughout all sports is the mask mandate.

Participants must wear masks or face coverings at all times will participating in practices or games. The one caveat is that all schools have the ability to designate areas where athletes can take "mask breaks." There will be areas designated for those breaks, especially during basketball games where players going up and down the court many times wearing a mask may need to catch a breath when the whistle blows. Because of the close contact involved with playing basketball, there was no way to play the sport safely without masks being worn.

The game will see modifications, but nothing too drastic and more along the way the timing, and setup of the game. Gameplay will be largely similar though different ideas were discussed to maintain distancing.

Like many other sports, the pre-game will be simplified. Only one captain will meet with the referees prior to the game. Starting lineups will likely be announced, but the traditional "high-five" lines will not be allowed, along with handshakes with the opposing coach.

There will be emphasis during game play to enforce rules about freedom of movement and closely guarding opposing players. Defenders are not allowed to impede the progress of offensive players, and will enforce the five-second rule on players who are being closely guarded.

The jump ball will be eliminated in favor of a simple coin toss to give possession of the ball to one team. Alternating possession will then prevail like the rest of the game typically does.

Free throws will look a bit different with just four players

See BASKETBALL page 8

SOCCER

Pioneers tryouts conclude

The Western Mass. Pioneers organization continued its tryouts for various age groups between Nov. 16 and 20, testing out the skills of many young people throughout the region to fill its various teams for the upcoming spring season. The Pioneers are hopeful for a normal schedule in 2021.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

SOCCER

Academy team joining Pioneers organization in 2021

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The Western Mass. Pioneers will be adding a USL Academy League soccer team in 2021. The New England Mutiny are also in the process of forming an Academy soccer team.

Both Academy soccer squads, which will be playing their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, will be made up of the top U16-U19 prospects from the Western Mass. area.

"In club soccer, you're limited to certain age groups," said Joe Ferrara, who's the owner of the Mutiny and the new Pioneers General Manager. "An academy soccer team allows talented players to play for one team regardless of their age."

The Pioneers had about 50 players try-out for the Academy League team in November.

"The Academy League team is a new program that we've added this year," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Our main goal is to develop the best local soccer players from Western Mass. to hopefully play for the Pioneers in the future."

Molinari, along with the Pioneers assistant coaches will be coaching the Academy League team in 2021.

"We wanted to have the same coaching staff for both the USL 2 team (Pioneers) and the USL Academy team," Molinari said. "We want both of the teams to play the same type of style. I do like coaching the younger soccer players."

The plan is for the boys' Academy League team to play their home matches prior to the Pioneers matches. Both teams will also be traveling together to road matches.

The boys' team will be competing against eleven other teams in the Northeast Division of the USL Academy League.

Molinari has been coaching the Pioneers, who are the defending Northeast Conference Champions of USL League Two, since 2012. The Pioneers weren't able to play any matches in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pioneers did not suffer any losses during the 2019 regular season. They lost in conference finals and qualified for U.S. Open Cup, which wasn't held last summer. The Pioneers also qualified for the league playoffs in 2016.

"I really enjoy coaching the Pioneers and it was painful not being able to compete in any matches last year," Molinari said. "We won our Division title in 2019 and it was our best season since I've been coaching the team. We're now thinking about the 2021 season."

Ferrara gave his thoughts about adding a girl's Academy team for the Mutiny.

"We're looking for the top girl's prospects in the area to play for the girls academy team next year," he said. "The age group will be similar to the boy's side. The girl's academy team will probably have one or two older players."

The girls Academy team will be playing home matches before the Mutiny.

Jill Serafino is going to be the head coach of the girls academy squad.

Serafino is currently the Mutiny General Manager and is an assistant coach. She's also an assistant coach for the women's soccer team at Springfield College.

The Mutiny, who celebrated

See ACADEMY page 8

COMMUNITY

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thunderbirds Managing Partner Paul Picknelly, New Valley Bank & Trust President and CEO Jeff Sullivan, Thunderbirds Mascot Boomer, Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa, and Thunderbirds Vice President, Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald.

T-Birds make donation to cancer-related charities

SPRINGFIELD – On Nov. 30, the Springfield Thunderbirds' Foundation announced $4,000 in donations to local cancer-related charities to cap off a successful Hockey Fights Cancer campaign during the month of November. Donations will be made to local cancer-related charities, including: Center for

See T-BIRDS page 8

Star Speedway announces 2021 schedule

EPPING, N.H. – Star Speedway's 2021 schedule includes multiple major events, a full slate of weekly racing series divisions ready to race for a championship and the thrills and spills of staple shows to begin and end the season.

Fans will get a taste of Supermodifieds, Late Models, Modifieds, Midgets, Super Late Models, Trucks, Street Stocks and more over the course of more than 22 events of racing from April through October.

The schedule is headlined by two events for the Tri Track Open Modified Series (May 29 and July 24), including a new Memorial Day weekend show and the 10th annual SBM Classic in July. The 56th annual Star Classic returns, with a three-day show from Sept. 17 to 19, while there are countless other special events including memorial races and extra-distance shows planned. The Granite State Pro Stock Series is back at Star for two dates -- May 8 and a new Sunday special as part of the Star Classic weekend, Sept. 19.

Continuing tradition, the season begins with the Spring Bunny Brawl on April 24, and ends with the two-day Howler weekend, Oct. 23 and 24. Star will give teams, drivers and fans one week off each month during the season, with off nights scheduled for May 22, June 12, July 17, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4.

The J&S Paving 350 Supermodifieds will continue to honor some of the best of the past at Star Speedway, with six special events as part of their 10-race schedule for 2021. A champion will be crowned on Sept. 11. Major memorial events planned include the inaugural Dennis McKennedy Memorial race as part of the Star Classic:

Bob Webber Sr. Memorial (May 15)

Jen Garland Memorial (June 19)

Krupski Cup (June 26)

Marco Turcotte Memorial (July 24)

Jim Belfiore Memorial (Aug. 14)

Dennis McKennedy Memorial at Star Classic (Sept. 18)

The Ken Izzett Construction Late Models are back with their own nine-race slate, headlined by an Independence Day weekend special on July 3, a 75-lapper, and a 100-lap feature on Aug. 21. The Late Models will also return to the Star Classic, this year as part of a Friday slate. The Late Model champion will be crowned on Sept. 11.

The MLM Diagnostic Fast 40 series return for the Woody's Street Stocks as part of the division's 16-race schedule. There will be four races in the 40-lap series (April 24, May 29, June 26 and Aug. 7), while the season will begin at the Bunny Brawl and end with the title battle on Sept. 26. The Street Stocks will continue to run their 50-lap race to end the season at the Howler, Oct. 23.

The EXIT Realty Pro Truck Series rumbles into the New Hampshire oval for two dates of their own, slated for events on Aug. 7 and Star Classic Sunday, Sept. 19. The North East Mini Stock Tour returns to Star three times -- including dates on June 5, Aug. 7 and Sept. 26. The annual NEMST 4 Cylinder Nationals main event will be run during their September date, moved from Classic weekend.

Two Wild And Whacky Wednesday night races are set for June 23 and Aug. 4, with both nights showcasing 4 and 6/8 Cylinder enduro races. The Six Shooters join the June show, while the August race is headlined by the Mia's Jewelry Boutique Slingshots and spectator one-on-one drag races. NELCAR returns to Star with their Legends Cars division in 2021, with dates on May 8 and Saturday, Sept. 18.

The three-day Star Classic will honor the late Bobby Webber Sr., beginning on Friday, Sept. 17, headlined by a 100-lap race for the Modified Racing Series, joined by the Late Models, Pure Stocks and Slingshots. On Saturday, the day full of winged warriors is back with the ISMA 125, Dennis McKennedy 350 Supermodified memorial, NEMA Midgets, NEMA Lites and NELCAR Legends Cars. On Sunday, the weekend ends with a 100-lapper for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, races for the EXIT Trucks, Classic Lites, Street Stocks and Six Shooters.

The Six Shooters will run 13 races, headlined by the Don & Aline Coster Memorial (July 10) and the Liz Paradise Memorial (Oct. 23). The Slingshots are set for 14 battles of their own, with a 40-lap special scheduled for part of the Aug. 4 show. There are 13 races for the Pure Stocks, races for the Classic Lites, and multiple enduro races for the 4, 6 and 8 cylinders.

The track will hold two swap meets -- one to start the season on April 17, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and one in the fall, a two-day special on October 30 and 31 from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The 2021 schedule is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit Star Speedway at StarSpeedwayNH.com and follow the track on social media.

HCC launching women's leadership training program

HOLYOKE – Building on the success of its popular Women's Leadership Luncheon Series, Holyoke Community College is launching an eight-week training program for women who want to develop and enhance their leadership skills.

For convenience, the program, "Women Leaning Into Leadership 2021: Empowering Your Voice," is being offered over Zoom in two separate, eight-week sessions:. One meets on Wednesdays, Jan. 6 through Feb. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; the other on Thursdays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 25, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The interactive workshops will be facilitated by Annie Shibata, Ph.D., owner of Growth Mindset Leadership and Communication Coaching.

Enrollment is limited by design. In addition to weekly 90-minute group seminars, each participant can schedule a private, 30-minute session of personalized coaching with the instructor.

"One critical component that makes this training special is the one-to-one coaching that each participant receives," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional Development. "The small group nature of the classes will allow plenty of weekly individual attention in addition to the private sessions. This is really a wonderful way for women to invest in themselves and their futures in a small, mentored group environment."

During the program sessions, participants will learn to evaluate their communication skills and apply new communication techniques; practice the power of mindfulness; distinguish forms of influence and persuasion to create powerful messages; assess their leadership strengths; and create short- and long-term plans for career development.

Shibata was the featured presenter during the November session of HCC's 2020 Women's Leadership Luncheon Series.

"HCC started the Women's Leadership Series with the goal of creating small group discussions for women as they navigate their careers," said Cabral. "The series meets monthly over Zoom at lunchtime as a way to offer networking and mentoring

Annie Shibata, Ph.D., owner of Growth Mindset Leadership and Communication Coaching.

to women at all levels.The 'Women Leaning Into Leadership' course takes that concept to the next level."

To register for the Wednesday program, visit: hcc.edu/women-2021-1

To register for the Thursday program, visit: hcc.edu/women-2021-2

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ACADEMY from page 7

their twentieth anniversary in 2019, played all of their home matches at Lusitano Stadium for the first time.

The Mutiny also finished the 2019 regular season without a loss. They lost to the Lancaster Inferno in the United Women's Soccer Eastern Conference finals.

For more information on either Academy soccer teams please contact Joe Ferrara at jferrara@wmpioneers.com or 413-330-9775.

BASKETBALL from page 7

allowed with the shooter. Normally six players are allowed. When a player is awarded two or three free throws, they will shoot alone until the final shot to limit the time players are in close contact.

One bigger chance that affects the end-of-game strategy for teams is the "intentional" fouls used to try and gain possessions for a team that is trailing. A team will looking to intentionally foul for that purpose will inform the referee of that intention, and then lightly tag the player with the ball upon inbounding. The referee would then blow the whistle.

Jump balls will be whistled quicker in order to limit close contact.

Rosters are limited to no more than 15 players and three coaches on the bench, though many teams do not carry more than 12 or 13 players. The MIAA is also strongly discouraging

T-BIRDS from page 7

Human Development's Cancer House of Hope, Survivor Journeys, American Cancer Society - Relay for Life, Mercy Medical Center - Sister Caritas Cancer Center, and the national non-profit, Hockey Fights Cancer.

This season's campaign looked quite different from previous years. Typically, the Thunderbirds would host a Hockey Fights Cancer themed game at the end of November, complete with specialty lavender jerseys that are worn by the players and auctioned off after the game. This year, however, the campaign was activated on social media. Throughout the month of November, the Thunderbirds collected names on social media from fans for people they "fight for." New Valley Bank & Trust committed to donate $5 for each submission received to the Thunderbirds' Foundation, for the first 500 submissions for a remarkable $2,500 total donation. The names were then added to Hockey Fights Cancer placards that were placed on the windows leading to New Valley Bank & Trust's newly renovated headquarters in Monarch Place in downtown Springfield.

"As we take down the placards we are revealing our brand new headquarters location", said Jeff Sullivan, President and CEO of New Valley Bank. "We have been inspired by the personal messages of hope as we have been completing our construction on the other side of the glass. There are heroes all around us, from our friends and family fighting cancer to the work that the Thunderbirds and others do to alleviate hunger in the community. We at New Valley continue to be very optimistic about the return of the vibrant culture of downtown Springfield as we begin to see vaccine distribution and economic resurgence in 2021."

In addition to the contribution from New Valley Bank, the Thunderbirds also collected monetary donations on their foundation website, as well as holding a specialty game-worn jersey raffle from previous Hockey Fights Cancer games. The grand total generated through these campaigns equaled $4,000.

"Hockey Fights Cancer has been an incredibly important cause for our organization and across the AHL and NHL," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "Even though our season hasn't technically started yet, it was important to keep the cause front and center in our community, and we thank New Valley Bank & Trust for stepping up during this difficult time. We are grateful to all who supported the cause by purchasing a raffle ticket, making a donation to our foundation, or simply submitting a name of someone that you fight for."

Elms College announces plan for Spring 2021 semester

CHICOPEE – As it successfully concludes its on-campus plan for the fall semester, College of Our Lady of the Elms has announced that the spring 2021 semester will continue to follow the hybrid ElmsFlex model.

Due to the campus community's successful efforts under the ElmsSafe health and safety protocols, the college was able to complete the in-person portion of the fall semester as planned, with students on campus until the Thanksgiving break. The remainder of the fall semester will be taught remotely.

"I continue to be inspired by and grateful for the way our students, faculty, and staff have come together to protect each other both inside and outside of the classroom since we reopened our campus in August," said Harry E. Dumay Ph.D., MBA, president of Elms College. "All the measures included in our ElmsSafe plan - wearing masks, social distancing, practicing enhanced hygiene, testing, contact tracing, quarantining and isolating as needed - have allowed us to foster a vibrant and nurturing learning environment for students that will extend into the spring 2021 semester."

Spring classes, which will start on Jan. 26, 2021, and end on May 7, will continue to be taught in the hybrid ElmsFlex model, which gives students the option of attending sessions in the classroom, synchronously online, or a combination of both. Under the ElmsFlex model, students can move between the options based on their personal preferences and individual circumstances in order to continue their coursework.

Residence halls will be open with single-room assignments and students will receive designated days in January to return to, or move into, their on-campus rooms.

COVID-19 testing will be required for all students, faculty, and staff prior to being allowed back on campus in January. Also, throughout the semester, all students, faculty, staff and visitors coming to campus will be required to complete a daily online health survey.

Elms College continues to closely monitor and follow guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and CDC, as well as Gov. Charlie Baker's mandates.

Out of an abundance of caution, classes will be held on Presidents' Day, Feb. 15, and there will be no Spring Break. Additionally, all domestic and international travel involving study abroad, mission, or service trips has been canceled.

The college is awaiting determinations by the New England Collegiate Conference and the NCAA as to whether competitive sports will be held in the spring.

For more information on Elms College's spring 2021 plan, visit www.elms.edu/elms-safe.

Chicopee High Selected Students for the month of November

The Chicopee High School Student of the Month award aims to recognize students for their outstanding contributions to the CHS community. Whether it be due to academics, extracurricular activities, or upstanding character, these young people stand out for their accomplishments and commitment to excellence. On behalf of the administration and staff, it is with great honor and Pacer pride that we present the selected students for the month of November.

Jayden Santiago, 9th grade

Jayden is a kind and caring student who lights up any room he enters. He spends his lunchtime and the morning break brightening everyone's day by singing for students and staff. He brings a microphone to school and gets his classmates clapping and enjoying his spirit each day.

Jareem Garvin, 10th grade

Jareem is the student you are so thankful to have in the remote learning setting. He keeps lessons alive and interesting by engaging classmates, making us laugh, and being a leader by example! He is bright and hardworking; he consistently participates and motivates others to do the same.

Julianies Cruz Hernandez, 11th grade

Juli is a kind, outgoing, generous, studious, and responsible young lady. She is engaged and engages others with her participation. She gives encouragement to others. During a presentation in the class, she stayed at the end of class with one of her peers and me to help. She told the anxious student, "You got this!" She is a special person!

Francise Mulrooney, 12th grade

Francise is such a personable, respectful and overall wonderful student. He is diligent and dedicated, and he strives to do his best in all classes. Even when he is doing great, he is looking for ways to improve his grades and better himself. He is kind to peers, always respectful to staff, and just a joy to work with!

Small Business Legal Clinic accepting applications

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the spring semester 2021. Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, employment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark applications and copyright. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 350 small businesses since it opened. "The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney," said Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen. "By using the Clinic's services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides students with a great opportunity to get real world experience."

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by January 1, 2021. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in late January. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at mfletcher@law.wne.edu.

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm.

Springfield Garden Club to host virtual tour of holiday decorations Dec. 18

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Garden Club will host "Decked Out for the Holidays" presented by Jana Milbocker of Enchanted Gardens on Friday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. The event will be virtual and will be accessible via Zoom.

If you love holiday decorations but cannot see them in person this year, take a virtual tour! We will visit Blithewold, Newport Mansions, Winterthur and Longwood Gardens sumptuously decorated and lit for the holiday season.

Jana Milbocker is a garden designer, speaker, and author. She combines horticulture, design, and travel tips to educate, inspire and delight both new and seasoned gardeners. Jana loves to visit gardens and historic sites in the U.S. and abroad, and share her trips through her books, photos and blog. She published The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast in 2018, and The Garden Tourist's New England in 2020. She has lectured at flower shows in Mass., Conn., Maine, New York and New Jersey, as well as a multitude of horticultural societies, garden clubs, and libraries in the Northeast. She is owner of Enchanted Gardens, a landscape design firm in the Boston area. (EnchantedGardensDesign.com.) She is past president of the Holliston Garden Club, and active in the Garden Club Federation of Mass., Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and GardenComm International.

The club is also offering an online Holiday Boutique and Auction featuring quality gift items and holiday arrangements. Proceeds from the Holiday Boutique and Auction allow the Club to offer:

Educational outreach to youth in our region

Fresh flower arrangements for patients in nursing homes,

Creation and maintenance of public gardens around the city!

For a link to the auction site, please email your name and phone number to spfldgardenclub@gmail.com.

The presentation is open to the public as well as club members via Zoom. Tickets for guests are $5 and are available at EventBrite.com.

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events go to

www.gcfm.org/springfieldgardenclub or visit them on Facebook at

https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub/

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Chicopee Register

Chicopee Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

OBITUARY

Donald Erick Keller, Jr.

January 13, 1955 – November 30, 2020

GRANBY – Donald Keller, 65, passed away on November 30, 2020 in Holyoke. Donald was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on January 13, 1955. He is survived by his mother Ruby Keller, brother Douglas M. Keller, his children Felicia Hubacz, Erick Keller, and Daniel Keller, grandchildren Cody Keller, Ava Laine Keller, Brouche and Laydien Domingez. He was predeceased by his father, Donald E. Keller, Sr. in 2012.

Donald was a 1973 graduate of Granby High School. He worked for many years as a cement mason.

He was a loving father, devoted son and brother and an avid outdoorsman. He spent countless hours with is family and teaching his children and grandchildren about hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and the fine art of becoming a turkey shoot legend. Donald had an easy-going way that matched the classic rock/country music that he loved and often played along to with his jaw harp. He was crazy for horror and sci-fi movies and always had a dirty joke or picture to share. Donald will be greatly missed!

Curran O'Brien was in charge of final arrangements.

A celebration of life will be held in the summer.

Donations may be made in Donald's name to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Wildlands Fund at Mass Wildlife, 251 Causeway St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

Death Notice:

Keller, Donald
Died November 30, 2020

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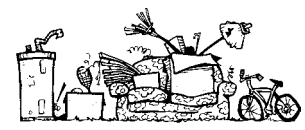

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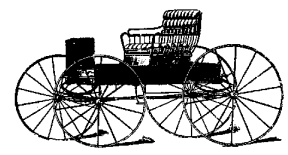

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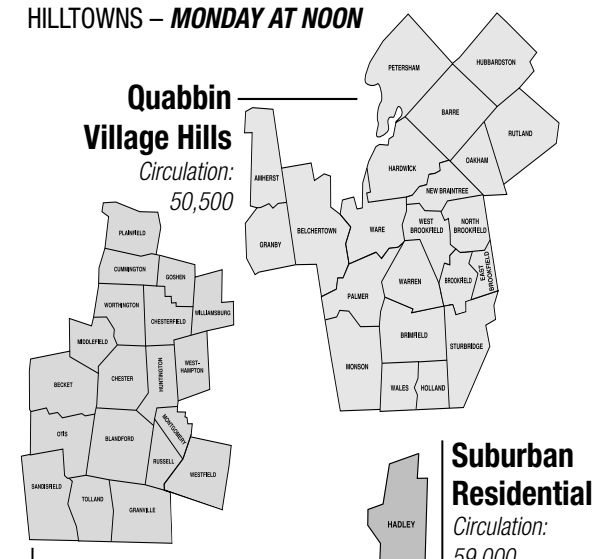
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0204CA
In the matter of:
Adriann Tamar Branch
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Adriann Tamar Branch of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Adriann Tamar Jacobs

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/22/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 24, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/11/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **December 25, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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David Allen Kanleuven
39 Fairfax St
Somerville, MA 02144

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VIN: JN1CA31DY0T524274
Danielle Roberto
13 Ken Ln
Granby, MA 01033

2001 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES15561H513309
Zaida Oyolla
162 Walnut Street, 2Nd Floor
Springfield, MA 01105

2001 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 1NXBR12E91Z472118
Angel Matos Perez
755 Worthington St
Springfield, MA 01105

2002 Dodge Dakota
VIN: 1B7HL38X62S700920
Aaron Eli
190 Harvard Dr
Stamford, CT 06902

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM66523A019737
Larhonda F Deveaux
19 Woodway Rd, Apt 28
Stamford, CT 06907

2003 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGEM21963L020891
Jenemy Martir
46 Coral St Apt 2
Worcester, Ma 01604

2003 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDN45D73U593063
Roseann Maher
19 Lincoln St Apt 1S
Enfield, CT 06082

2004 Chrysler Pt Cruiser
VIN: 3C4FY58B34T234485
Louis Concepcian
198 Brown Ave
Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Honda Nss250s
VIN: JH2MF06734K000774
Judy Madore
111 Highridge Rd
Southington, CT 06489

2004 Jeep Liberty
VIN: 1J4GL48K44W271286
Alex Jackson
26 Pacific St
Pittsfield, MA 01201

2004 Volkswagen Passat
VIN: WVWPD63B14E186434
Devin Abdul Qawi Avshalom Smith
231 Starr St
New Haven, CT 06511

2005 Gmc Savana G3500
VIN: 1GDJG31V251906563
El Encanto
905 Summit Ave
Union City, NJ07087

2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG12637H549499
Margaret Vineis
732 Broadway, Apt 3
Sommerville, MA 02144

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E98N421544
John Adamczyk
91 Burlington Dr
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2008 Scion TC
VIN: JTKDE167680249839
Jemeily Castro Figueroa
303 Maple St, Apt 249
Springfield, MA 01105

2008 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDJT923085194518
Sherwyn Cooper
625 Thomas Burgin Pkwy, Apt 607
Quincy, MA 02169

2009 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB61E39L622655
Benedict Cooper
5 Edgemere Ave
Providence, RI 02909

2010 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD2H21AH513743
Christian Castro-Colon
116 Hancock St
Springfield, MA 01105

2010 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WA5EN4A1100187
Haas Inc
6 Boulder Pkwy
North Oxford, MA 01537

2012 Mitsubishi Galant
VIN: 4A32B2FF3CE019351
Derek Mccarthy
5R Smith St
Rockport, MA 01966

2012 Tao Tao
VIN: L9NTCBAE6J1012337
Unknown

2013 Chrysler 200LX
VIN: 1C3CCBAB8DN735905
Daniel Delisle
1847 Glasgo Rd
Jewett City, CT06351

2013 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1AR2MM4DC614228
Thomas Cleary
Po Box 657
Castleton, VT 05735

2017 Victory Octane
VIN: 5VPFTB006H3001808
Carlos Lopez
145 Florence St
Springfield, MA 01105

12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2020

R	A	M	P	S	■	■	P	M	T	■	R	E	D	D
C	L	E	A	N	■	G	A	E	A	■	E	B	R	O
P	O	R	C	■	S	A	G	A	N	■	F	L	O	E
T	E	L	E	V	I	S	E	D	■	S	E	A	L	S
■	■	■	S	A	L	T	S	■	T	L	C	■	L	T
A	S	P	■	N	O	R	■	C	H	I	T	A	■	■
T	H	U	D	■	S	O	P	H	O	M	O	R	E	■
P	A	L	E	S	■	P	A	R	■	E	R	E	C	T
■	M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	S	■	Y	A	R	E
■	■	S	I	R	E	D	■	S	A	C	■	S	U	E
A	P	■	M	O	B	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	■	■
P	A	N	E	S	■	G	E	M	I	N	A	T	E	D
P	R	A	T	■	M	A	R	A	S	■	B	A	B	A
R	E	D	E	■	I	B	I	S	■	D	I	R	A	C
O	S	A	R	■	D	Y	N	■	■	P	R	O	N	E

Chicopee Register

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